

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SWAPO STATEMENT ON ELECTIONS IN
NAMIBIA

1. SWAPO'S LONDON-BASED DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
(PETER KATJAVIVI) HAS ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT ON THE
ISSUE OF ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA. THE STATEMENT ARGUES
FORCEFULLY THAT FREE ELECTIONS ARE IMPOSSIBLE SO LONG
AS ANY SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITY ADMINISTERS NAMIBIA AND
SO LONG AS SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES REMAIN IN THE TERRITORY.
THE STATEMENT REJECTS THE CONCEPT OF A PRETORIA-APPOINTE
ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL BECAUSE THE APPOINTMENT WOULD IN
FACT LEGITIMIZE SOUTH AFRICA'S OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA.
SWAPO DEMANDS THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL NAMIBIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS AND CONCLUDES THEREFORE THAT A PANEL
OF JURISTS IS UNNECESSARY. RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THE
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STATEMENT ARE QUOTED BELOW:

2. QUOTE: WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE DEMAND UNITED NATIONS
SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA IS THAT
IT IS NECESSARY TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO THE
HOLDING OF FREE ELECTIONS, TO ENABLE THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE
TO FREELY DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE. TO DO THIS IT IS

NECESSARY TO REMOVE THE CAUSES OF WAR AND INSECURITY IN NAMIBIA; THIS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY OF OCCUPATION. SOUTH AFRICAN CONTROL MUST BE ENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2248 (19 MAY 1967) WHICH ESTABLISHED THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA TO ADMINISTER THE TERRITORY UNTIL INDEPENDENCE.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO APPOINT AN ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL. THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE IN NAMIBIA, WHETHER EXERCISED THROUGH THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION OR THE PROPOSED ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL, IS ILLEGAL. SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA OF AN ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL FROM UN MEMBER STATES WOULD AMOUNT TO CONDONING THE ILLEGAL SOUTH AFRICAN OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA. ANY SUPPORT FOR THIS OPTION BY UN MEMBER STATES WOULD BE REGARDED BY US AS AN ACT DESIGNED TO CIRCUMVENT THE AUTHORITY OF THE UN OVER NAMIBIA AND TO STEP OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED BY THE WORLD BODY FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF INDEPENDENCE....

SWAPO CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN AN ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY OF OCCUPATION AND ALL ITS APPARATUS ARE STILL IN CONTROL OF NAMIBIA.

MOREOVER WE ARE ON OUR GUARD TO AND SHALL BE VIGILANT TO ENSURE THAT ANY PROPOSALS FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA ARE CLEARLY DEFINED AND UNDERSTOOD BY ALL. WE HAVE LEARNT FROM BITTER EXPERIENCE BOTH IN OUR OWN CASE AND IN THAT OF ZIMBABWE THAT ALL TOO OFTEN SUCH DISCUSSIONS ON NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS LEAD TO THE DIFFERENT PARTIES INVOLVED AGREEING ON COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PROPOSALS.

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OUR POSITION ON ELECTIONS UNDER SOUTH AFRICAN CONTROL IS QUITE CLEAR: WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THEM. FURTHERMORE, IN CALLING FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM NAMIBIA, WE ALSO DEMAND THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL NAMIBIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DETAINEES. SWAPO WILL NOT NEGOTIATE THE FATE OF THESE MEN AND WOMEN, WHOSE ONLY CRIME WAS TO RESIST THE ILLEGAL SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME AND WE THEREFORE SEE NO NEED FOR A PANEL OF JURISTS. NOR DO WE ACCEPT THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN POLITICAL PRISONERS AND OTHER DETAINEES, NOR THE PARALLEL DRAWN BETWEEN NAMIBIAN PATRIOTS DETAINED BY SOUTH AFRICA AND THOSE SWAPO MEMBERS WHO ARE DETAINED FOR DISCIPLINARY REASONS. COMPLYING WITH ANY FORMULA WHICH CALLS FOR LESS THAN THE TOTAL AND IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ILLEGAL OCCUPYING FORCES IS COMPLYING WITH PRETORIA. IN THIS CONNECTION WE CAUTION THE FIVE POWERS NOT TO OVERSTEP THE UN FRAMEWORK FOR INDEPENDENCE IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS OR WE WILL BE FORCED TO CONCLUDE THAT THE WEST IS CLOSING RANKS WITH THE RACIST VORSTER REGIME RATHER THAN SUP-

PORTING THE GENUINE ASPIRATIONS OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE
FOR INDEPENDENCE. END QUOTE
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